



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Howard County Police Investigating Possible Food Tampering

Howard County Police are investigating a possible food tampering incident at the Columbia Mall reported earlier this evening. Police were called at approximately 5:30 p.m. to the Le Gourmet Chef store after three patrons reported that a sample of salsa dip offered by the establishment was bad. The responding police officer reported that the dip had a strong chemical odor.

At this time, investigators are unsure about what type of substance, if any, may have been in the salsa dip. Police are working to have the food tested for safety, if possible. Patrons reported that they did not ingest the food because of the strong odor and taste.

Store employees estimate that the sample was available to patrons from around 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. Anyone who may have eaten the dip during that time period should be aware of this concern.

There have been no reports of illness as a result of ingesting this food.

The investigation into this incident is continuing.

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